

New Jersey Department of Transportation
Bureau of Research
RESEARCH PROJECT
Request for Proposals
2011 Program

Date of RFP
1/10/2011

Closing Date
02/23/2011

Feasibility and Efficacy of Public Transportation Partnerships

Project No. 2011-10

(Proposals must be prepared in accordance with NJDOT's *Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals*. Please visit:

<http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/pdf/techpropresproj.pdf>

Revised Proposal Evaluation Forms are available for your information on the website.)

Proposals will be selected based on the merit of the information contained in the proposal. Budgets will be evaluated separately. Please place three (3) copies of the budget for this project in a separate sealed envelope.

1. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT, BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this effort is to identify and assess examples of partnerships aimed at improving or expanding public transportation. The effort must go beyond just inventorying transit partnerships, delving deeper into an assessment of the efficacy of each partnership in meeting the expectations of involved parties. The components of a partnership should be identified and assessed, including the partners, the transit improvement sought, the type of partnership, challenges to implementation, unique conditions and replicability, and the results and longevity of the partnership – with research aimed at guiding future partnership initiatives. Of primary importance here is the assessment of partnership efficacy: what worked, how well did it work, why did it work, and what needs to be done to ensure it can be pursued on a continuous basis?

This research effort should focus on recent experiences with this type of partnering, looking back no more than five years. It is possible that examples of successful transportation industry partnerships may exist outside the world of public transportation, and indeed the number of recent, successful transit partnerships may be limited. For this reason, the researcher is encouraged to go “outside the box” to identify and assess such partnerships that may have worth and replicability for public transportation even though the partnership was not transit-related, per se.

The researchers must be mindful of a changing dynamic in how future transit improvements could be advanced. The current practice of public and private interests requesting transit agency sponsorship of transit improvements will likely diminish over time in the face of shrinking transit agency resources. The partnership approach, whereby private and/or public entities across different levels of government work together to identify the most effective transit improvements, and actively participate in advancing and developing funding for them, offers a solution. The researchers must, therefore, take care to identify partnership examples and practices that are applicable to the transit industry and replicable in today's government and business climate. Adequate assessment of

efficacy, shortcomings, benefits, and fatal flaws will go far to aid the transit industry in advancing future partnerships and avoiding missteps.

Among the questions we would like to have answered are:

- a. Identifying involved parties:
 - Who initiated the partnership?
 - Who helped? Who hurt?
 - Who ultimately became the partners?
- b. Execution of the partnership:
 - Why was the partnership formed?
 - How was it empowered/enabled?
 - Did it require special legislation? If so, what form of legislation?
- c. Structure of the partnership:
 - What was the form of the partnership?
 - Was it formalized? If so, how?
- d. Efficacy of the partnership:
 - How well is the partnership working?
 - What did the partnership seek to accomplish or produce?
 - Was project/initiative around which the partnership was formed completed? Was it successful?
 - If not successful, why not? If successful, why?
 - What were the lessons learned that can be reapplied?

2. TASKS

[Provide a listing of appropriate general tasks divided into phases based on types of work (e.g., laboratory, field) or by year (e.g., year 1, year 2) or other appropriate milestones]

The NJDOT is seeking the insight of proposal responders on how best to achieve the research objectives. Proposers are expected to describe a research effort that can realistically be accomplished as expeditiously as possible. Proposals must present the proposers' current thinking in sufficient detail to demonstrate their understanding of the problem and the soundness of their approach for conducting the required research.

Task 1 – Literature Search

Conduct a comprehensive literature search for pertinent examples of partnerships. This effort may include information search via the internet. The PI should gather additional information about pertinent partnerships, and confirm the credibility of data gathered through the literature search, through telephone interviews with pertinent parties, particularly “partners”. The PI should meet with

NJ TRANSIT personnel regularly to discuss research findings and obtain feedback on their pertinence and applicability. At the completion of the literature search, the PI will make a presentation to the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel to discuss their findings and to discuss the appropriate research approach.

Task II – Assessment of Exemplary Partnerships

The PI must assess the efficacy of each partnership example identified in Task 1 in meeting the expectations of involved parties: What worked?; How well did it work?; Why did it work?; and, Is this example replicable/what needs to be done to ensure it can be pursued on a continuous basis? The components of a partnership should be identified and assessed, including the partners, the transit improvement sought, the type of partnership, challenges to implementation, unique conditions and replicability, and the results and longevity of the partnership – with research aimed at guiding future partnership initiatives for advancing public transportation improvements.

3. DELIVERABLES:

[List of minimum deliverables necessary to complete the project]

- Presentation of Summary of Literature Search Results
- Discussion to Support and Refine the Project Tasks
- Project work plan.
- Technical Memorandum on the research and assessment results
- Interim Status reports suitable for Senior Leadership if required
- Quarterly Reports and Final Report, in color, with appropriate tables, graphs and charts in hard copy version, PDF file format, Word, and on CD ROM. Two copies plus one per RSIP member of each presentation, technical memorandum, draft final report and Final Report (plus 10 copies). The Final Report and Tech Brief are due three (3) months before the end date of the project to allow time for review by the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel. Final Acceptance will be granted upon receipt of ten copies of the approved final report.

4. CONTRACT TIME:

The PI must provide the anticipated research study duration based on the proposed tasks. Consideration should be given to potential impediments so that adjustments are incorporated into the schedule minimizing the need for time extensions.
12 - 24 months

5. CONTACTS:

An optional meeting may be scheduled with interested parties after the RFP's are distributed to refine the objectives and deliverables and to promote a better understanding of the research needs. Questions on this topic **shall not** be directed to any Research Project Manager, Research Customer, or any other NJDOT person. All **questions** pertinent to this RFP would be addressed during this meeting or may be emailed to Camille.CrichtonSumners@dot.state.nj.us up until February 10th,

2011. Please contact Camille Crichton-Summers (Camille.CrichtonSummers@dot.state.nj.us) on or before **January 31, 2011** to indicate your **interest in such a meeting**.

6. DEADLINE

**Proposals (10 single-bound copies) are due at the NJDOT Bureau of Research
no later than 5:00 p.m. 02/23/2011**

Authorization to Begin Work: To be determined/negotiated

7. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:

For private, paid messenger services such as Federal Express, DHL, UPS, etc., or for hand-carried deliveries:

2011 PROPOSAL-NJDOT
New Jersey Department of Transportation
Bureau of Research
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

For U.S. Postal Service mail:

New Jersey Department of Transportation
ATTN: Camille Crichton-Summers
Manager, Bureau of Research
PO Box 600
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600